

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2121

FOR NEA/EGY MATTHEWS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, EG

SUBJECT: ARAB BOYCOTT MEETING

REF: STATE 41859

1. MEETINGS OF 37 TH CONFERENCE OF ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL (USUALLY HELD SEMIANNUALLY) OPENED ON FEB 23 AND IS EXPECTED TO LAST FOR TEN DAYS.
NO SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION CONCERNING DELIBERATIONS SO FAR EMERGED.

2. ONLY STATEMENTS THUS FAR ISSUED HAVE BEEN REPETITIONS OF COMMENTS MADE IN DAMASCUS AND BEIRUT IN RECENT DAYS, RE BOYCOTT AS A WEAPON AGAINST ISRAEL, NOT JEWS, AND SUCCESS OF BOYCOTT AS EVIDENCED BY FACT THAT "MORE THAN 200 COMPANIES" HAVE APPLIED TO HAVE THEMSELVES TAKEN OFF LIST.

3. IN CONNECTION LAST POINT, DIRGEN HAGHOUB HAS SAID THAT 60 CASES WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING, AS WELL AS ADDITION OF SEVEN COMPANIES TO LIST, INCLUDING SONY CORP.

4. COMMENT: WE EXPECT THAT THIS MEETING WILL BE SOMETHING OF A MILESTONE FOR BOYCOTT OFFICE. ARABS ARE FEELING THEIR MUSCLES AND "STRATEGIC WEAPON" OF THE BOYCOTT IS CLEARLY BECOMING A MATTER OF SOME IMPORTANCE TO NUMBERS OF IMPORTANT WESTERN FIRMS. LEYLAND, WHICH HAS TAKEN "ALL REQUIRED STEPS" TO BREAK
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RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, AND HAS SUBMITTED PAPERS RELATED

TO A 50 MILLION POUND STERLING PLANT HERE, HAS BEEN TOLD BY BOYCOTT
OFFICIALS THAT THEY WILL HAVE TO HAVE A FIRM CONTRACT WITH
EGYPTIANS, BEFORE THEY COME OFF LIST, SOMETHING THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE
UNTIL THEY ARE OFF THE LIST.

5. EMBASSY WILL REPORT RESULTS OF MEETING WHEN THEY ARE KNOWN.
EILTS

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